

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants elected Group III and the species (A) "four plates" and (B) "cysteiny protease" for examination. Claims 15-20 read on the species elected for examination. Applicants note the Examiner's statement that "cys-protease" is free of prior art and, thus, infer that examination has been expanded to generic limitations (e.g., enzymes, hydrolases, peptidases, proteases, etc.). Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected subject matter in a further patent application.

The Examiner found claim 15 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species:

- A. "Kind of amino acid residues e.g., natural or non-natural amino acid"
- B. "The number and combinations of amino acid residues in a well in each plate. (For example, 2 for A and 3 B for on a single well.)" and
- C. "The length of a peptide in a library"

and required an election of a single disclosed species for each. In compliance thereto, Applicants elect the following:

- A. Natural amino acids for the combinatorially variable part of the sequence
- B. For a standard 96-well plate in which the library probes tetramers, each well has compounds reflecting one variant of a first residue, ten variants of a second residue, two variants of a third residue, and one variant of a fourth residue (different plates will, of course, cycle through each of the various positions B, C, D or E to provide all combinations somewhere in the library) and
- C. Tetramers as regards the amino acid residues which are combinatorially varied.

Note, however, that the formula AaBbCcDd(Ee)FG presupposes that there may be a FRET pair A and F (quencher), each of which may be a modified (i.e., non-natural) amino acid (e.g., Abz and TyrNO₂). The formula further includes G, a typically polar, invariant amino acid (e.g., Asp) which many libraries will also have to improve solubility. In other words, while there are only four residues being combinatorially probed through the library, each compound could have at least seven residues in total (of which the FRET pair cannot be natural amino acids as elected in A).

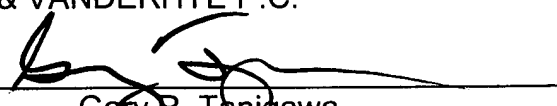
QUIBELL et al. – Appln. No. 09/171,671

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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